

Dear Members of the Fair Districts Task Force,

Fairness has always been one of my core principles, instilled in me by my family. I grew up watching my parents work hard to make medical care more accessible for those who needed it most: from people experiencing homelessness in the shelters of Albuquerque to families in the rural areas of Nicaragua with no running water. They taught me that fairness is not automatic – we have to work at it every day.

This value of fairness is the reason why I felt honored to join this committee and why I believe in fair redistricting. I believe that a strong and healthy democracy allows voters to choose their elected officials, instead of allowing politicians to choose their voters. However, I can't ignore the reality of our national situation – from what is happening in Texas to what is happening in my backyard at the Walmart on Coors.

Fairness is why I supported independents voting in primaries that determine the outcome of most of our races; fairness is not Texas or Ohio or any other red state redistricting on an off cycle; and fairness is not asking one side to play a professional baseball game with wiffle ball bats. It's not right to move forward with state level independent redistricting without action at the national level. We need the Freedom to Vote Act; we need the John Lewis Voting Rights Act; we need to reverse *Rucho v. Common Cause*; and we need every single state, whether Republican or Democrat, to play by the same fair rules.

I am the youngest woman in the New Mexico State legislature, and I believe that, one day, in my lifetime, we will see a future where redistricting is fair and independent across the country. Today is not that day. But in the meantime, there are so many ways to improve good governance in our state – increasing funding for civics education, lowering the voting age to 16, making election day a state holiday, or paying our legislature. Those are the efforts I wish to focus my time and energy on.

For these reasons, I am withdrawing my name from this task force and request my photo, likeness, and future representation of serving on this committee to be withdrawn as well.

Sincerely,  
Rep. Cristina Parajón  
House District 25